

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 30

Introduced by Assembly Member Pan

March 7, 2012

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 30—Relative to Medicare.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 30, as introduced, Pan. Medicare: dental care.

This measure would memorialize the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would add comprehensive, preventative dental care coverage to Medicare benefits.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, National Health Interview surveys from 1997 to
2 2009 found 24 to 30 percent of persons 65 years of age and older
3 were edentulous; and

4 WHEREAS, The surveys also found that during that period only
5 17 to 24 percent of older edentate persons, compared to 69 to 73
6 percent of older dentate persons, had a dental visit in the past year;
7 and

8 WHEREAS, Medicare does not currently provide for most dental
9 care; and

10 WHEREAS, Senior citizens, many living on a fixed income,
11 often cannot afford the out-of-pocket costs of dental care; and

12 WHEREAS, A study done in March 2005 by the State University
13 of New York, University at Buffalo's School of Dental Medicine
14 found that cost was a major factor in senior citizens not obtaining
15 dental care; and

1 WHEREAS, Covering medical illnesses that are directly
2 correlated with poor dental health can be a significant expense for
3 Medicare; and

4 WHEREAS, Many of the diseases correlated with dental health
5 are preventable and could be avoided or mitigated through better
6 dental care; and

7 WHEREAS, Including dental coverage in Medicare benefits
8 will lower the program's medical expenses as well as improve the
9 quality of life for senior citizen; now, therefore, be it

10 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
11 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature respectfully memorializes
12 the President and Congress of the United States to enact appropriate
13 legislation that would add comprehensive, preventative dental care
14 coverage to Medicare benefits; and be it further

15 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
16 of this measure to the President and Vice-President of the United
17 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
18 Majority Leader of the Senate, to the Chair of the Senate Special
19 Committee on Aging, and to each Senator and Representative from
20 California in the Congress of the United States.